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Report on Education and Awareness Activities to improve the protection of wild chimpanzees and their habitat in West Africa,

undertaken by
the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation

January 2010 – December 2010

Reported by the
Regional Representation for Western Africa of the WCF

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

*Over the year 2010, the Wild Chimpanzee Foundation has carried out, and compared to 2009, also increased successfully its **environmental education and sensitization activities in Côte d'Ivoire, and in three neighboring countries Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.** Included are: Theater performances, followed by open discussion rounds with the public, newsletter distributions and projection of documentary films on chimpanzees.*

70 different localities** were reached in the four countries. More than **39'000 spectators attended the theater plays** and more than **33'000 people have watched the movies.** Compared to 2009, **WCF doubled the audience reached during the awareness campaigns in 2010.

***The Club PAN environmental courses took place in 12 villages in Côte d'Ivoire** (2 more than in 2009) with a total of 757 school children participating. We added the villages of Dahobly in the western part and Amaragui in the eastern part of Taï NP. The WCF volunteer teachers contributed significantly to the success of the project.*

*In addition, this year's **school exchange program "Amitié Sans Frontières" (Friendship Without Borders)** took place in all Club P.A.N schools. German schools from the cities of Werdau, Zwickau and Leipzig exchanged with Ivorian pupils by letters and posters and treated various cultural and ecological subjects.*

*WCF also continued the animation in the **Nature Museum in Banco National Park.** In 2010, with 8'700 visitors until October 2010, the number of 2009 was doubled, (figures after this date are not available because of the post-electoral crisis).*

*Moreover, we decided, after the success encountered by the sensitization songs of the WCF long-term partner "Ymako Teatri", **to register a CD, with 9 songs dealing with the emergency situation of the National Parks and their flora and fauna.** 1300 copies of the CD were printed and will be distributed during the future events and campaigns, as well as to the local radios.*

*We started, in collaboration with the Taï Chimpanzee Project (TCP), to organize in Abidjan **the celebration of 30-years of chimpanzee research in the Taï National Park.** The aim was to sensitize the largest possible number of people through an exhibit on research on the famous chimpanzees of Taï NP, debates, children activities around chimpanzees, as well as to incite the decision-makers to act in favor of conservation. This event has been postponed until the socio-political situation in the country allows for its organization.*

*We conceived the **11th issue of the Newsletter "Forest Wisdom/Paroles de Forêt"**. It is in the process of printing and will be distributed during coming activities.*

*A study evaluating the impact of the WCF sensitization campaigns on the daily **consumption of bush-meat** and specifically chimpanzees around Taï NP is underway since the end of 2009 with 24 families and 45 restaurants in three cities, in the well-known bushmeat markets and with clients of local restaurants. In June 2010, we*



added three villages to the data set situated in the east of the National Park (V2, V6, Sarakaga). Results are expected for mid-2011.

*In 2010, the WCF also started to **implement a community-based ecotourism project** in Taï village. We recruited a full-time ecotourism officer, started the construction process and also initiated the habituation of a group of mangabeys, colobus, and soon also chimpanzees. The aim is to attract foreign as well as national customers to the site.*

*Finally, during 2010, **WCF had media coverage** with several publications in the national and African newspapers and magazines, gave interviews on local radios, and had some TV coverage of the theater performances.*

Contents

Theater Performances and Films presentations	4
Club P.A.N nature school and exchange program.....	7
Banco Museum, ‘Maison de la Nature’ in Abidjan	8
Music for sensitization.....	8
Celebrating 30 years of the Taï Chimpanzee Project.....	10
Newsletter 11 “Forest Wisdom” and “Paroles de Forêt”	10
Bushmeat study	11
Ecotourism in Taï, Côte d’Ivoire	11
Others.....	12
Acknowledgements.....	13
Annex: Overview of the sociological studies	15



The following is an overview of the awareness activities WCF carried out throughout 2010.



Theater Performances and Films presentations

In Côte d'Ivoire, sensitization theater activities took place essentially around Taï and Banco National Parks and around the Mount Nimba Natural Reserve. **In Liberia**, we performed around Sapo National Park and Grebo National Forest; **in Guinea** in the GAC (Guinea Alumina Corporation) concession and **in Sierra Leone** around Outamba Kilimi National Park and in the close-by Guinean region of Madina-Oula.

In 2010, theater plays were performed, as so far,

- by the professional troupes **Ymako Teatri** in Côte d'Ivoire, **Compagnie Touchatout** in Guinea and **Tabule Theater** in Sierra Leone
- as well as by **schools or villager troupes**. In Côte d'Ivoire, we had four Public Primary Schools (EPP in French) performing; in the villages Wonsealy, Djouroutou, Grabo, Agban and the Municipal School of Taï.
- Two new amateur groups were trained for performances: the **Jawordee Conservation Awareness Culture Troupe** in Liberia, trained by **House of Freedom** as well as the **Fintonia Theatre Group** in Sierra Leone, trained by **Tabule Theater**. These troupes continued the sensitization efforts after the professional troupes had passed, but in villages not reached by them.
- Furthermore, in Mai/June 2010, **the local theatre group from Agban-Attié** was re-trained by the Director of Ymako Teatri, Mr. Jean-Pierre Nesseré Dji, as many of the former "actors" had left the primary school for the secondary school. It took just nine days for this professional actor to train 24 children and rehearse with them, as some of them have already performed in the past. The group has then performed twice in front of 450 persons, including many children, in two villages close to the Banco National Park, in Abidjan.

The theater plays performed were always dealing with the difficult relations between chimpanzees and humans, emphasizing the urgency to protect the chimpanzees and their natural habitat. Plays were followed by discussion rounds with the audience; the members of the communities asked questions about chimpanzees and biodiversity. WCF also showed 2 movies, the "BBC-Wildlife on One" features on the behavior of the Taï forest chimpanzees "Too close for comfort?" and a film produced by the WCF on "Taï chimpanzees and WCF activities".



Sangaredi Campaign, Guinea, March 2010

Throughout the year, these performances took place in 70 different localities in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. More than 39'000 spectators attended the theater plays and more than 33'000 people have watched the movies (see details in tables 1 and 2 below). The number of people reached by the multi-media campaigns in 2010 has increased 100% for spectators attending the plays compared to 2009, where 51 villages with 19.705 people have been sensitized.

To evaluate the impact of these campaigns, the WCF carried out bushmeat surveys and hired independent sociologists to analyze the changes in knowledge, perception



and attitude towards chimpanzees of the sensitized local communities. More details can be found below in this document. A direct evaluation whether the conservation message was well perceived and understood by the audience takes place, when, at the end of a performance, the public is asked to intervene and to decide on the outcome of the play either by speaking in favor or against increased protection of chimpanzees and their forested habitat or by becoming ‘spec-actors’ (the spectators become actors) and to act out themselves why to decide in the favor of chimpanzee protection. In over 95% of the cases, the public spontaneously decided in favor of chimpanzee conservation and most often demanded to punish those who acted against it in the play.

In September 2010, the Ivorian Ministry of Tourism organized the SITA (Ivorian tourism and handicraft Fair) in Abidjan to promote tourism across the country. **WCF took this opportunity to promote Banco NP**, its points of interest and activities to the public. At this occasion, we presented the play “Our cousins from the forest” by Ymako Teatri in the Banco Museum. The performance was attended by the Japanese Ambassador and representatives of the Ministry of Tourism and the event has been widely covered by the national medias (TV, radios and newspapers)

Table 1 : Overview of the countries and places visited by the WCF in 2010 for its awareness program, detailing public attendance

	2010			
	Theater		Films	
	Numbers of performances	Audience	Numbers of projections	Audience
Côte d’Ivoire				
Taï NP & Classified Forests of Goin Débé and Cavally	30	21.551	19	12.700
Banco NP	2	450	1	250
INR Mount Nimba	4	3.250	4	3.300
Liberia				
Sapo NP and Grebo National Forest	8	3.250	8	4.250
Guinée				
Sangaredi, GAC Concession	6	4.373	6	4.320
Reserve Mount Nimba	4	2.650	4	3.200
Madina Oula	5	1.180	4	1.430
Sierra Leone				
Outamba Killimi NP	11	2.590	11	4.150
Total	70	39’294	57	33’600



Table 2 : Overview of the various villages and towns visited during the WCF awareness program in 2010

Countries, Parks or Forests	Villages
Professional Troupes	
Côte d'Ivoire	
Taï National Park * March 10	Djouroulou, Z'foké, Poubou, Beoué, Earié, Para, Daohy, Gouléabo-Eouadolo, Sakré, Taï (10)
Mount Nimba (1)* May 10	Gbapleu, Kounhoulé, Danpleu, Yéah (4)
Bancos National Park Sept. 10	BNP (1)
Sierra Leone	
Outamba Kilimi (2)* June 10	Sansaya, Fintonia, Sansa, Gursata, Koko (5)
Guinea	
Sansaradi GAC Concession March 10	Tchankoun-Tyoli, Nihibi, Tinguilinta, Bellimci, Wosou, Doubla (6)
Mount Nimba II)* May 10	Tuo, Gogota, H'zo, Burata (4)
Medina Oula (Outamba Kilimi) (2)* June 10	Medina-Oula, Berlin, Badé-Kanky, Kansama, Sékoussoria (5)
School or villagers Troupes	
Côte d'Ivoire	
Taï College Taï National Park March 10	Grundro, Landro Lou, Koussoulo, Koussoulo (Taï) (4)
EPP Grabo Taï National Park July 10 August 10	Houin, V2 Oti, Saké, JB-Ero (4) Grabo (1)
EPP Djouroulou Taï National Park July 10 August 10	Glavou, Yavouly, Petit-Guigé, Nigé, Djouroulou (5) Grabo (1)
EPP Agaan-Akété Bancos National Park June 10	Abobo Saké, Annaboukoué (2)
Liberia	
Liberian Conservation Awareness Culture Troop March 10	Pulu, Lomolen, Nyamolon, Sagbeben, Ellapa, Kankoulen, Seaboron, Pormolen, Gebletoon, Pyre Tour (8)
Sierra Leone	
Fintonia Group October 10	Tanehek, Yanah, Kabba Ferry, Meria, Fordulorel, Fintonia (6)

(1) The Nimba campaign included performances both in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea

(2) The Outamba Kilimi tour included performances both in Guinea and Sierra Leone

* Overview of the sociological studies available for this tour to be found on page 15



Club P.A.N and school exchange program

The Primary schools education program Club PAN (People, Animals and Nature) (www.wildchimps.org/wcf/english/pan/lessonplan.html) around Taï National Park was initiated in 2007 with the involvement of the local CPE teachers (Environmental Projects Unit). It was expanded during the third year of the program to 12 primary schools compared to 10 in 2009.



Club PAN lesson in a village forest of Paulé-Oula

The same ten schools that had participated in the previous years took also part in the activities in 2010. The schools were located in the following villages: Ziriglo, Sakré, Diero-Oula, Paulé-Oula, Taï, Petit Tiémé and in the city of Soubré (Hopital 1, 2 and 4, and Nabouhi). By including two more schools in the third year, in the villages of Dahobly in the West and Amaragui in the east of Taï NP, we had a total of 757 school children participating in the Club P.A.N. program. The fourth year 2010/11 of Club PAN started in October 2010 as usual with a teachers' training conducted in Taï, including all the 12 schools involved. The volunteer teachers recruited by WCF to reinforce the program in 3 schools on the western side of the park contributed significantly to the success of the project.

The overall attendance was on average 84 %, which is very high since we are working on a voluntary base and on school free days (Wednesday and Saturday) when children are normally supposed to help at home or in the fields with their families. All children participating in Club P.A.N. also participated in the various parent days. At the end of the school year, theater competitions and educative games were organized in front of the parents and the others pupils. These events are always perceived as big celebrations in the villages and at the same time allowed the parents and other village members to learn about Club P.A.N. Even more importantly, it provided opportunity for the children to 'become teachers' themselves and this honors their efforts and motivation.

This year's school exchange program "Amitié Sans Frontière" (Friendship Without Borders) took place in all 10 Club P.A.N schools. German schools from the towns of Werdau, Zwickau and Leipzig exchanged with Ivorian pupils by letters and posters and treated various cultural and ecological topics.



Banco Museum, 'Maison de la Nature' in Abidjan

In Banco National Park, the visits to the Nature Museum carried on in 2010, with Primary and Secondary schools and other groups and individuals. About 8.700 people visited the Center from January to October 2010, more than the double compared to 2009. Figures after this date are not yet available as they are provided to us by the Ivorian Government, which experiences a political crisis since the November 2010 elections.

Income generated by the increase in the number of visitors in Banco has been reinvested into surveillance to reduce illegal activities in Banco NP and to create more attractions for the visitors by providing bikes and implementing playgrounds for children.



Visitors 'fishing termites' like Central African chimpanzees do – these interactive stations in the museum allow to explain cultural differences in chimpanzees across Africa



Creative school activities during a visitor day in Banco NP

Music for sensitization

The professional theatre troupe Ymako Teatri is a long term partner of the WCF and has been since 2001 a key-actor for the WCF educational campaigns in Côte d'Ivoire. Since the beginning, they have performed within the framework of a WCF environmental educational program 119 times, in front of an audience of more than 70 000 community members. They usually end their plays by a song, which everybody sings in unison, such as "Our cousins from the forest", whereof the chorus repeats "Chimpanzees are our cousins, don't kill them!"

Since then, Ymako has created and performed several plays and songs with the support of WCF. They all deal with the state of emergency of the National Parks and of the flora and fauna, which are threatened to extinction due to increasing poaching and other illegal activities, such as logging, mining or agricultural encroachment.



Because of the success encountered, and also to spread the message on a wider scale, Ymako and WCF decided to record a CD of the already famous songs used in the plays, and adding some new songs created for this occasion. The Ymako Teatri's leader, Nessere Dji, first wrote a draft of the lyrics, which have been read and revised by the WCF team in Abidjan, notably for the scientific statements and for correct information provided.

Following rehearsals, 11 members of the troupe were called up for the Master CD recording sessions which took place during 2 weeks in the HYAS Studios in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Instead of the 8 songs planned in the proposal, one extra-song has been recorded as a present to WCF by Ymako. The 9 recorded songs are in order as follows:

Table 3: Songs and topics discussed

#	Songs	Topics
1	Our cousins from the forest	Protection of wild chimpanzees
2	Goin-Débé and Cavally	Protection of classified forests
3	Protect the Tai National Park	Let's protect for the future generations
4	SOS Ivorian forests	Political involvement has to be improved
5	Forests of Mount Nimba	Protection of Mount Nimba
6	Banco National Park	Biodiversity in the middle of a city
7	Youth and forest	Message to Ivorian youth
8	Protect the elephants	Protection of wild elephants
9	Animals and chimps	Environmental services and protection

During 2010, we have conceived the CD cover, and produced 1.300 copies of the master CD. These CDs will be distributed to the villagers and schools WCF visits during its educational tours, as well as handed out to national authorities, administration, institutions and local and national radios, to spread our conservation and sensitization message all across the country.



Cover of the Ymako Teatri sensitization CD



Celebrating 30 years of the Tai Chimpanzee Research Project

Initiated in 1979 by Prof. Christophe Boesch, the Tai Chimpanzee Project is now studying 4 different chimpanzee communities in their natural habitat. This in-depth incursion in the chimpanzees' life has allowed a better understanding of their social life, their tool-use skills, their organization of hunts for monkeys and many more aspects of their life. In addition, these studies emphasize the fact that many of the behaviors that we thought unique to humans are also practiced by chimpanzees.

To celebrate 30 years of research in Tai NP, the WCF started to organize a big event in Abidjan, with exhibitions, conferences, round-table debates as well as children activities, taking place in the French Cultural Center in the Plateau Area (city center). We planned to invite many officials such as the President of the Republic, and invite VIPs such as Ms. Wangari Maathai, Nobel prize winner from Kenya, Mr. Didier Drogba, the famous Ivorian footballer and/or Alpha Blondy, the Ivorian Reggae Star, to spread the message across Abidjan and the whole country with the support of the national media. We planned to take this opportunity to create a "Charter to protect the chimpanzees and the Tai National Park", which was to be signed by all the decision-makers during the event.

The event, planned in December 2010, was first postponed to February 2011 due to the political instability of the country after the disputed November 2010 elections. Because this situation is still not solved, this event will take place as soon as the socio-political situation allows it.



Billboard of the TCP's 30th birthday celebration in Abidjan

Newsletter "Forest Wisdom" or "Paroles de Forêt"



The n°11 of the WCF-Newsletter has been conceived. One of the topics on chimpanzees' life presented deals with the migration of a female chimpanzee between two communities. It is translated into comic style on 8 pages by Désiré Koffi and Ben Amara Sylla.. The second topic, depicted on 6 pages, is on cultural aspects and nut cracking differences between two communities of chimpanzees in the Tai National Park.

As usual, scenari have been produced by WCF in collaboration with Mrs Dao N'Daw Koumba (experienced



teacher and education animator). The Newsletter is presently being printed and will be distributed to the communities during the next awareness campaigns.

In addition, the WCF has conceived sensitization stickers and posters (3000 stickers and 2000 posters). They will be placed in different public places across the country, in the city center of Abidjan, distributed among the transport sector (buses, taxis, airport), as well as provided to the local communities.

Bushmeat study

A study evaluating the impact of our sensitization campaigns on the daily consumption of bush-meat and specifically chimpanzees around Taï NP is underway. Since the end of 2009, 24 families and 45 restaurants in three cities (Soubré, Yabayo and Guiglo) and 6 villages (Amaragui, Petit Tiémé, Dioulabougou, Djidoubay, Zagné, Diero-Oula) around the park agreed to work with us on a daily basis. In June 2010, three villages in the east of the National Park (V2, V6, Sarakaga) were added. Until December 2010, already 400 days of data and 18.511 data points in restaurants and 11.697 data points from families have been assembled. Additionally, in the well-known bushmeat markets, a local assistant visits them one day a week (Market Day) to take note of the meat arriving at the market. Data from more than 50 visits is available. Moreover, 220 interviews with consumers visiting restaurants have been conducted. Analysis will be carried out over the following months and results will be assembled in a report. Around the Sapo NP, the Forestry Development Authority together with Fauna Flora International also conducts a bushmeat survey to better understand the off-take of wild animals from the park. Results will be available soon and will be compared to results we gather around the Taï NP.



Various partly endangered species sold at the bush-meat market near the Ivorian-Liberian border close to the Taï NP.

Ecotourism in Taï

In 2010, the WCF started a new conservation project based on the principles of ecotourism. After having been approached by the local communities of Taï since 2002, the WCF in collaboration with the OIPR and the local communities are setting up a community based ecotourism project to increase conservation measures for the Taï NP whilst supporting local development. A full-time program officer has been appointed to deal with the implementation of this project.



Preparatory activities have been put in place for Taï to develop its tourism capacity and attractions. As such, plans have been developed by an Ivorian architect to build a small hotel, the “Auberge de Taï” along the N’Zé river to accommodate tourists in the region. A local ecotourism committee is also being put in place, in which the WCF, the OIPR and the local communities (Dao and Oubi cantons) will be represented to coordinate the project. A feasibility study was carried out by an external consultant, John Mason from Nature Conservation Research Centre in Ghana, who demonstrated the huge potential Taï could offer for having a successful community based ecotourism project running (the report is available on request).

Prospective activities were identified, which include the habituation of red colobus monkeys, sooty mangabeys and chimpanzees in the National Park, as well as the construction of walkways and platforms for tourists to experience the forest and the forest canopy. Cultural and village activities will also be promoted which involve dance and mask nights, cooking local food, visits to local plantations and micro-projects (such as fish-farms), to show the visiting tourists what living in an African village in tropical West Africa really entails. A small eco-museum will also be built to act as well as visitors’ centre and local handcraft display area. In 2011, ecotourism activities will be further developed so that in 2012 tourists can be well received in Taï, with all accommodation and activities being operational.

Profits made from this project will be shared between the running of the project itself, research activities in the park, operational costs of the park through the OIPR and the local community who will be encouraged to use the profits for social community projects, such as building schools, clinics and operate micro-projects.

Others

During 2010, the WCF communication officer, Mr. Camille Dji, worked thoroughly with the local media (TV, radios, newspapers) to have a nation-wide, and even African coverage of our activities and to inform the people about the worrying status of protected areas and chimpanzees in the country. Many articles have been published, campaigns covered by the national TV and interviews have been held. On the right, an article published in Life magazine, distributed throughout the continent.



Because one of the main projects of the WCF is to establish corridors between the different protected areas of the Taï-Sapo Complex, we informed the local communities on this process to obtain their support. Two first information and sensitization meetings have been organized in Taï and Djouroutou with officials, traditional chiefs, youth-, women- and foreign-community groups’ representatives about the transboundary initiative for an ecological corridor in the Taï-Sapo Complex.



These different meetings allowed the WCF leaders to address the people's questions and worries about the utility of this initiative and the potential benefit to them.

Acknowledgements

The WCF Education Projects in 2010 were financially supported by:

- Arcus Foundation
- Amersfoort Zoo
- Brevard Zoo
- Cleveland Metroparks Zoo
- Columbus Zoo
- Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial (FFEM)
- Great Ape Conservation Fund (USFWS)
- Great Ape Trust of Iowa
- Guinea Alumina Project
- Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund
- Leipzig Zoo
- Minnesota Zoo
- Oregon Zoo
- Paul Schiller Stiftung
- Royal Norwegian Embassy
- Rufford Small Grants Foundation
- STEWARD
- Sweden Chimpanzee Trust
- Yves Rocher 'Prix de femmes'
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Zoo am Meer e.V.
- Züricher Tierschutz
- Private donors

The WCF kindly thanks all the partner organizations and institutions from 2010 for their technical, material and individual support:

Côte d'Ivoire :

- Ministère de l'Environnement, des Eaux et Forêt
- Ministère de l'Enseignement Supérieur et de la Recherche Scientifique
- Ministère de l'Education Nationale
- Ministère du Tourisme
- L'Office Ivoirien des Parcs et Réserves (OIPR)
- National Parc Directions (Taï, Banco)
- Société pour le Développement des Forêts (SODEFOR)
- Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS)
- l'AFD (Agence Française de Développement)
- Fondation Parcs et Réserves de Côte d'Ivoire
- World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF)
- Conservation International (CI)
- Afrique Nature International



- Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- Cellule des Projets Environnementaux (CPE)
- KFW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) /GTZ (Gesellschaft für technische Zusammenarbeit)
- Randonnées Tours
- ONG Environnement Sain-Santé pour tous
- Vision Verte
- Le Gardien
- SOS Forêts
- Ymako Teatri
- Troupes scolaires et villageoises
- Imprisud, Graphicolor
- Universités de Cocody-Abidjan, Abobo-Adjamé
- Comité Comics, Texte Journal Paroles de Forêt

Liberia:

- Forestry Development Authority
- Conservation International
- Fauna & Flora International
- Theatre Group House of Freedom
- Forest Cry Liberia
- University Monrovia

Guinea

- Guinea Alumina Corporation
- Société de Mines de Fer de Guinée
- Guinée Ecologie
- Compagnie Touchatout
- Jane Goodall Institut

Germany:

- Max-Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology



Annex: Overview of the sociological studies

The complete detailed sociological surveys are available upon request.

Four sociological studies have been carried out in 2010 by independent, national sociologists to evaluate the efficiency of the WCF awareness campaigns (relevant changes in knowledge, perception and attitudes towards chimpanzees). The methodology was the following: the sociologists first carried out a **pre-study** before the sensitization campaigns and a **post-study** about 6 months later, to assess any changes by comparison. The results are encouraging, showing a positive evolution.

1. POST STUDY OF YMAKO 2009 TOUR AROUND TAÏ NATIONAL PARK AND ITS NEIGHBOURING CLASSIFIED FORESTS

Theatre tour in August 2009, post-socio study in February /March 2010

The main conclusions are as follows:

- The awareness campaigns were very appreciated by the targeted communities, and they judged theatre performances as one of the best ways to inform and sensitize the communities to the conservation of natural resources in general, and especially chimpanzees.

Gain of knowledge:

Theatre performances as well as movie projections importantly improved the knowledge of the audience about the life and the behaviour of chimpanzees. People who rightly stated that:

- + Chimpanzees live in large organized groups, increased from 69,2 to 96,3%
- + Chimpanzees care for dead group members, increased from 48,8 to 86,2%
- + Chimpanzees cure themselves, was stated by 82,7 compared to before 57,8%
- + 7% more people acknowledged in the post study that the inter-birth interval of chimpanzees is longer than just one year
- + 19% more people cited wild fruits as foods of chimpanzees
- + 92,6% stated that chimpanzees and humans are very similar

Change of perception:

Theatre performances and movie projections improved notably the positive perception of chimpanzees and their forested habitat.

- + People considering the chimpanzees capacity of serving as pets as a positive quality decreased from 44.5% to 6.9%.
- + Although 7% less people are in favor of domestication of chimpanzees after the campaign, still a large majority (over 70%) have not learned that this is in disfavor of their protection.
- + Attributed negative perceptions such as being aggressive, fell from 51.6% to 5%
- + People considering chimpanzees clever increased from 36.9 % to 58.6 %
- + After the tour, 100% compared to 74,8% judged important to protect the Classified Forests, as forests are important for future generations (37 %); they supply natural resources (29 %); they are important to protect animals (12 %); they provide rain (10 %) and they are a national heritage (7 %)



Evolution of attitude:

Post evaluation of this educational campaign compared to the pre-study showed evidences of an increased willingness by the communities to help protecting chimpanzees and the forest.

- ✚ 96.2 % of the villagers placed chimpanzee meat at the last out of 9 ranking positions in a consumption matrix. 37% stated chimpanzee as their totem (traditional) and another 60% cannot consume chimpanzees because they resemble man or for religious beliefs.
- ✚ The proportion of the people who would kill crop raiding chimpanzees fell from 17.4 % to 11.5 %; 31.4 %, compared to 7.6 % would not intervene; 57.6 % compared to 48.5 % would chase them away and 23 % would call the park authorities, instead of only 2.8 % previously.
- ✚ 81.6 % of the population was conscious that the Classified Forests are under the management of the government, and as such all illegal activities that take place therein can lead to penalty sanctions. Although the existence of a law protecting chimpanzees is known by nearly everyone, the details and implications of the law are not yet well enough understood.
- ✚ 100 % of the people agreed on the fact that if the clearing of the forest were to carry on at today's current rate, in 10 years the forests would be totally destroyed. Only 78.2 % admitted it before the campaign.

2. PRE- AND POST-STUDY OF YMAKO 2010 TOUR AROUND TAI NATIONAL PARK TO PROMOTE THE TAI-SAPO CORRIDORS

THEATRE tour conducted in March 2010, pre-socio study in March 2010, post-study in August 2010

Data were collected in March 2010 for the pre-study in eleven communities located on the western side of the Tai National Park in Côte d'Ivoire (Béhoué, Daobly, Djouroutou, Gouléako 2, Karié, Kouadiokro, Para, Poutou, N'guessankro, Sakré and Tai) and in August 2010 for the post study, in 10 communities. In the pre-study 194 people have been interviewed of which 111 were found again for the post-study. Of the 111 people in the post study, 53 persons have been attending the theatre and were taken into account to evaluate the impact of the theatre performances. Most of the community members interviewed were from the ethnic groups of Guéré, Burkinabé, Baoulé, Oubi, and Kroumen. 78.69% of them were farmers, 39% of them having had no formal school education, over 54.10% aged between 30 to 50 years and over 62% take care for more than 6 people in their household.

Gain of knowledge:

Results from the comparison of the pre-and post-study show an important gain of knowledge that varies in between 3 to 55% for specific subjects.

- ✚ People stating that; Chimpanzees use tools for feeding increased from 17.01 to 45.10%
- ✚ Chimpanzees live in large organized groups increased from 79.90 to 98.08%
- ✚ Chimpanzees care for dead group members increased from 43.30 to 92.31%
- ✚ Chimpanzees cure themselves increased from 62.89 to 98.04%
- ✚ Chimpanzees produce sounds by drumming on tree buttresses increased from 50.98 to 79.07%



- ✚ People stating that an inter-birth interval of 1 year or longer increased from 15.46 to 47.05%; however the number of those who rightly stated the intervals to be more than 4 years stayed small but increased from 2.06 to 5.88%

Concerning law, the message conceived was that chimpanzees are protected animals worldwide and it is therefore forbidden to kill, trade, possess as a pet and as such eat them. Then we inform about the status of the areas visited and the laws in the visited countries, i.e. what is or is not forbidden in a NP, a National or Classified Forest or a rural forest. Those aspects are also transmitted by the government officials who are always present during WCF-tours.

- ✚ The proportion of the people who acknowledged that chimpanzees are protected by law increased from 89.18 to 98.08% and those who could cite at least one aspect of the law increased from 0 to 95.83
- ✚ Concerning the existence of international laws forbidding the trade of animals between countries, 81.25 %, against 73.71% before, have knowledge of it. However, no one can explain its exact content.

Change of perception:

- ✚ The affirmation that chimpanzees have qualities changed from 59.79 to 94.23%, but 75.51% (before 75.77%) still thinks that they have defaults (crop raiding and aggressiveness).
- ✚ People who think that their qualities are more important than their defaults increased from 48.98% to 51.5%.
- ✚ Those who think that defaults are more important than qualities decreased from 67.015 to 48.98%.
- ✚ People stating that chimpanzees and human being have similar behaviors increased from 80.93 to 98.00%

Evolution of attitude:

As no activity mentioned in response to crop raiding puts chimpanzees life in danger, the change of attitude can be judged as positive:

- ✚ People saying that chimpanzees cause problems to their daily activities decreased from 22.16% to only 6%
- ✚ The proportion of the people who would kill crop raiding chimpanzees fell from 6.70 to 0 %; 36.0 compared to 40.72 % from before would not do anything; 60.0 compared to 46.39 % would chase them away and nobody would set traps, instead of 5.67 % in the pre-study.
- ✚ The theatre and film could not contribute to an important decrease in the number of people who consider domestication of chimpanzees as behavior in favor of their protection (pre-study 65,4 5% against 61, 34%)

Concerning local inhabitants' perception and attitude towards the Tai-Grebo corridor (Côte d'Ivoire) we observed the following:

- ✚ People who think that the presence of the Tai National Park has positive effect on the agricultural activities increased from 10% to 100%.
- ✚ People thinking that it is important to conserve forested areas around villages increased from 61.86 % to 86.0%
- ✚ Those who think that it is necessary, for the welfare of human, to protect animals and forest resources increased from 77.32 to 98.04%



- ✚ Less people cited cash-crop such as coffee, cacao and rubber trees as plants that should be planted in such forested corridors (72.22 in comparison to 97.94% from before)
- ✚ More people acknowledged the usefulness for humans and animals to plant fruiting trees (19.44% compared to very little from before).
- ✚ Populations stating that the benefits of a corridor initiative should be only reserved to humans decreased from 70.10% to 22.73%.

We observed a slight decrease in the percentage of people that were in favor of reconnecting forested habitats to create a corridor from 55.67 in the pre-study to 47.06% in the post-study. This decrease is most likely due to the fear that creating a corridor means to reduce farming space. Specific follow up sensitization is needed and has already started to reassure the population that a corridor will entail landscape planning that includes different types of habitats: forest, re-forested and afforested areas (area newly planted with original forest trees), ordinary plantations and such that are enriched with naturally occurring trees of the forest. The corridor's aim is therefore not to reduce farming potential, but rather to add alternatives, including various forms of agro-sylviculture and to incite the population for schemes like certification (e.g. Rainforest Alliance label), that can be profitable not only for the farmers themselves but also for the maintenance of the biodiversity.

3. PRE- AND POST-STUDY OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY CAMPAIGN AROUND NIMBA MOUNTAINS (GUINEA AND COTE D'IVOIRE)

Theatre tour conducted in May 2010, pre-study in March/April 2010, post-study in August/September 2010

For the pre-study and post study, data was collected from late March to early April and from late August to September 2010, respectively, in eight communities located near the Nimba Reserve in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea. In Côte d'Ivoire, the villages Danipleu, Gbapleu, Kouanhouleu and Yéaleu and in Guinea the villages of Bourata, Gogota, Guéguépo, N'zoo and Thuo have been targeted. In the pre-study 160 people have been interviewed of which 106 were found again for the post-study. Of the 106 people in the post study, 61 persons have been attending the theatre and were taken into account to evaluate the impact of the theatre performances on their knowledge, perception and attitude towards chimpanzees and their forested habitat.

Most of the community members interviewed were from the ethnic groups Manon, Konon and Yacouba, 85% were farmers, over 48% had no formal school education, over 40% were aged between 30 to 50 years and over 65% have to take care for more than 6 people in their household.

Gain of knowledge:

Results from the comparison of the pre-and post study show an important knowledge gain that varies in between 3 to nearly 70% for specific subjects:

- ✚ People stating that chimpanzees use tools for feeding increased from 5 to 35.09%
- ✚ Chimpanzees consume wild fruits (in contrast to domestic fruits) increased from 3,10 to 30,51%
- ✚ Chimpanzees live in large organized groups increased from 34.38 to 94.64%
- ✚ Chimpanzees care for dead group members increased from 23.13 to 91.23%



- ✚ Chimpanzees cure themselves increased from 84,4 to 87,04%
- ✚ Chimpanzees produce sounds by drumming on tree buttress increased from 6 to 72.09%
- ✚ People who state an inter-birth interval of 1 year or longer increased from 23,8 to 50% chimpanzees; however the number of those who rightly state more than 4 years stays small but increased from 3,8 to 7,5%
- ✚ The proportion of the people who acknowledged that chimpanzees are protected by law increased from 33.10 to 89.47% and those who could cite at least one aspect of the law content increased from 0 to 87.76%.
- ✚ However, no knowledge gain about international laws, forbidding the commerce of animals between countries has been obtained (still about one third does not know about the existence of e.g. the CITES law and no one can explain its content).

In general, **65.31 %** of the people who watched the theatre piece stated that they increased their knowledge on how chimpanzees live.

Change of perception:

The affirmation that chimpanzees have qualities changed from 33,75 to 87,72%, but 75% (before 78,8%) still think that their defaults (crop raiding and aggressiveness) are more important than their qualities.

- ✚ The affirmation that chimpanzees have qualities changed from 33,75 to 87,72%
- ✚ However, 75% (before 78,8%) still think that their defaults (crop raiding and aggressiveness) are more important than their qualities.
- ✚ People acknowledging that chimpanzees are threatened in their existence went from 20,63% to 42,11%
- ✚ People wishing that the chimpanzee population would again increase in their surroundings went from 15,62% to 45,10%

Evolution of attitude:

Contrary to our expectations, there is a decrease from 63 to 46% between the pre- and post study in the number of people considering chimpanzees as totem. Problems due to a highly reduced sample size in the post study contribute to this result and will need to be addressed with special attention. It is nevertheless worth mentioning that the people considering chimpanzees as totems because “chimpanzees are our parents” (the main theme of the theatre play) increased from 1.3 % to 9.1 %.

Likewise, there is an increase between the pre- and post-study in the consumption of chimpanzee meat; 5.6 % admitted having eaten or eating chimpanzee meat compared to 14.3 % in the post-study. Again, as above, the reduced sample size between the two studies may be one of the reasons for this negative result. And, here as well, the absolute number of people still citing to consume chimpanzee meat in the post study is inferior to the one in the pre-study.

- ✚ People saying that chimpanzees cause problems to their daily activities decreased from 63% to 36%
- ✚ The proportion of the people who would kill crop raiding chimpanzees fell from 5 to 0 %; 17.54 compared to 7 % from before would not do anything; 79 compared to 86 % would chase them away and 3.51 % would call the park authorities, instead of only 1 % previously.



The theatre and film could not contribute as expected to decrease significantly the number of people who consider domestication of chimpanzees as behavior in disfavor of their protection.

- ✚ Still only 15,8% of the population compared to 11,3% from before consider domestication as negative

Concerning local inhabitants' perception and attitude towards the Mont Nimba Reserve we observed the following:

- ✚ People who see no advantages of living close to the Reserve decreased from over 30 % to 10 %
- ✚ The statement that the Reserve would procure no advantage at all for the whole region fell from 72% to 36,8%
- ✚ The statement that the Reserve brings potential for employment to the region increased from 1,9% to 13,11%
- ✚ The argument that the major disadvantage of living close to the Reserve is the destruction of their plantations by animals decreased from 37% to 17%, that it restricts the people's hunting grounds decreased from 10% to 1%
- ✚ The statement that it is important to continue protecting the sacred and village forests increased from 30,6% to 86,3%

In general, the results show that villagers are ready to actively contribute to the conservation of the respective protected area/forest. An important percentage of the interviewed population also improved their knowledge on the importance of tropical forests.

Around Nimba, villages and sacred forests seem still to be abundant (confirmed by 98,3 %). They measure in between 0,5 to 5 ha and still contain species like monkeys, chimpanzees, duikers and buffalos that seem to pass through these forested patches. The reasons cited why people want to safeguard them are that they allow future generations to know about the natural resources, they allow guaranteeing a local and regional ecological stability, they contain medicinal plants, they favor rain and procure a suitable climate for agriculture and they are common property.

- ✚ An affirmative perception of whether animals and humans can live together in close proximity without major harm increased from only 10% to 42,3%
- ✚ We observed an increase from 28,7 to 76,5 % of people that were in favor of reconnecting forested habitats to create a corridor.
- ✚ The reasons to why creating corridors is important were much better understood from the population, as 57 instead of 8 % in the pre-study evoked reasons such as protecting biodiversity and restoring habitats for animals.
- ✚ Less people cited cash-crops such as coffee, cacao and hevea as plants that should be planted in such forested corridors (83% in comparison to 95% from before) and more people acknowledged the usefulness for humans and animals to plant fruiting trees (17 compared to 5% from before).
- ✚ Whereas in the pre-study, 90% of the interviewed population stated that the benefits of a corridor initiative should be only reserved to humans, in the post study only 32% said so.
- ✚ On the contrary, in the post-study, 68 compared to only 8% in the pre-study thought that humans and animals should profit from a forest-corridor. No one in both studies stated that only animals should profit.



In general, the sensitization campaign around the Nimba Reserve significantly improved the knowledge and perception in favour of chimpanzees and their habitat, as well as the necessity and importance to install corridors. However, there is still much need to translate this improved perception into attitudes and behaviours in favour of chimpanzee long-term survival. Continued sensitization is needed to achieve behavioural changes in the local populations who are confronted with poverty and development issues for their own daily survival. This first sensitization campaign around Nimba Mountains can be considered as successful but needs to be followed up by further such initiatives.

4. PRE STUDY OF THE TRANSBOUNDARY CAMPAIGN AROUND OUTAMBA-KILIMI NATIONAL PARK (SIERRA LEONE AND GUINEA)
Theatre tour conducted in June 2010, pre-study in March/April 2010, post-study had to be postponed

The evolution of the knowledge, perception and attitude towards chimpanzees and their habitat in and around OKNP following the theatre performances will be analyzed and compared to the post-sociological study once it is available, so far foreseen for February 2011. It had to be delayed by several months due to insecurity issues related to the election process in Guinea.

Data for the pre-study were collected between the end of March 2010 and the beginning of April 2010 in 9 different communities around OKNP in Sierra Leone and in the Madina-Oula Region in Guinea. In Sierra Leone, villages of Samaya, Kotor, Fintonia, Sumata et Sanya and in Guinea, villages of Madina-Oula, Sekoussoria, Bady-Kanté et Berbin were targeted.

Here below is a summary of the preliminary analysis of the replies given before the campaign.

Knowledge and Perception of Chimpanzees

All respondents called chimpanzees ‘Damuyi’, generally meaning that they physically look (i.e. have hair, stand erect on two legs, have no tail) and behave like human beings (i.e. eat about the same types of food, care for their new born, and playful). The majority of them (97%) indicated that there is a difference between chimpanzees and monkeys. The majority indicated that chimpanzees have good qualities (44%) such as: being obedient, friendly and acting as security when domesticated; no damage to crops; neat, peaceful, shy and respectful; socially organized under a single but good leadership; and caring for their young. 35% indicated that they do not have good qualities, while few could not tell. The bad qualities cited included stealing and destroying food and cash crops, being aggressive and attacking people, particularly women and children. Slightly over half of the respondents (54%) indicated that the population of chimpanzees has increased over the last 10 years. 50% stated to have seen a chimpanzee more than one year ago and for 30% this was less than 6 months ago, and 80% said to have seen one in forested areas. 93 % had heard their drumming sound but could not tell how the sound is produced. About half to a third of them do not know neither the birth intervals in chimpanzees (63%), nor how they treat the dead ones (52%), or that and how they cure themselves when sick or injured (56%).



A majority of them indicated that there are common behavioral (e.g. play, cry, breast feed, taking bath) and physiological (e.g. menstruation, sleep) qualities between chimpanzees and human beings. About 80.2 % indicated that chimpanzees live in social groups. Chimpanzees eat a combination of cultivated food crops (e.g. rice, cassava, maize, pepper, couscous, pigeon pea beans, groundnut, pumpkins and sorghum), fruit (e.g. mangoes, oranges, bananas, plantains, pawpaw and pineapples) and other tree crops either in plantations or in the forest (e.g. kola nuts, plums, palm kernel, black tumbala, bush bananas and locust). 99.5% of the respondents said chimpanzees eat with their hands.

Attitudes towards Chimpanzees

Respondents were asked to indicate their thoughts about domestication, trade, medicinal value, sacredness and hunting of chimpanzees. 66 % of the respondents indicated that it is good to domesticate chimpanzees. However, 99.5 % of the respondents reported that people in their community do not domesticate and sell chimpanzees. About 5.7% of the respondents reported that people in their community do eat chimpanzee meat because it is very sweet and of medicinal value. 25 % of the respondents indicated that chimpanzees have medicinal value (e.g. curing skin itches, strengthening bones of particularly weak children, cure river blindness and sickle cell anemia). Considering preferences in meat consumption, cattle meat is the most preferred, while pork is ranking the least. There is even a higher preference for primates like chimpanzees and monkeys over the pork in the Muslim dominated study setting although the Muslim population is not supposed to eat chimpanzee meat.

55 % of the respondents indicated that people in their community and themselves (53%) do not consider chimpanzees as sacred animals. 21% of them indicated that they are sacred because they resemble human beings, while 16% and 3.5% said it has been a forbidden animal in the Islamic religion and by their ancestors, respectively. However, about 16% indicated that there is no punishment for disrespecting these rules, while 9, 8, 5 and 2 percent, respectively, said culprits are treated as outcasts, fined, advised not to do so and brought to the Chiefs for justice.

According to 97 % of respondents, hunting of chimpanzees is not common in the study area. However, some reported the killing of about 10 chimpanzees since the start of 2010 in hilly areas near villages in the study area. About 56% indicated that chimpanzees cause damage to major farm activities in their community and that of their neighbors, in which case most of them chase them away by shouting and throwing stones at them using locally made slings (about 96% of the respondents). Yet, about 53% indicated that they could live with chimpanzees because they have similar physical and behavioral characteristics mentioned earlier when domesticated.

Communities and Protected Forest

The majority (68%) of the community members think that the ONKP is of no benefit to them. About 12% each indicated receiving material benefits from NGOs working in the region (e.g. planting materials for food and cash crops) and environmental benefits (e.g. fresh air, clean water and good amount of rainfall) among other benefits (e.g. bridges, environmental education). Notwithstanding that, most liked living close to the OKNP for environmental benefits, such as collecting wild plants as food during the lean season (July through September) and opportunities to develop good social relationships. Few (13%) reported being engaged in farming (5%), recreation,



visitation and collection of medicinal plants (1.5% each), felling of timber for house construction and trade, collection of kola nuts and bananas for trade (1% each) within the ONKP with little or no negative impact on chimpanzees.

About 63% indicated that there are no extensive educational services about chimpanzees in their community. Those that do offer such services in the communities include (inter) nationals from the OKNP (about 15%), Wild Life Conservation (about 7%), and (inter) national transboundary agents. Despite the absence of community animation for the protection of chimpanzees, the majority of the respondents (73%) think, chimpanzees should be protected through instituting and enforcing laws against their killing, cruelty and destruction of their habitats. About 56% would like to be involved in protecting chimpanzees. This involvement may include assist in caring for and feeding chimpanzees in confined places (15.1%); sensitize community people (8.5%); help in preventing capture, prosecution of illegal loggers (7.5%); and work as forest guard to prevent intruders into the forest (5%).

Some respondents (57%) have knowledge of existing laws to protect the OKNP. The laws stated include: no hunting (38.1 %); no burning/logging of the forest (15.5 %); no farming in the forest (8.6%). Some respondents gave answers including several laws at a time.

